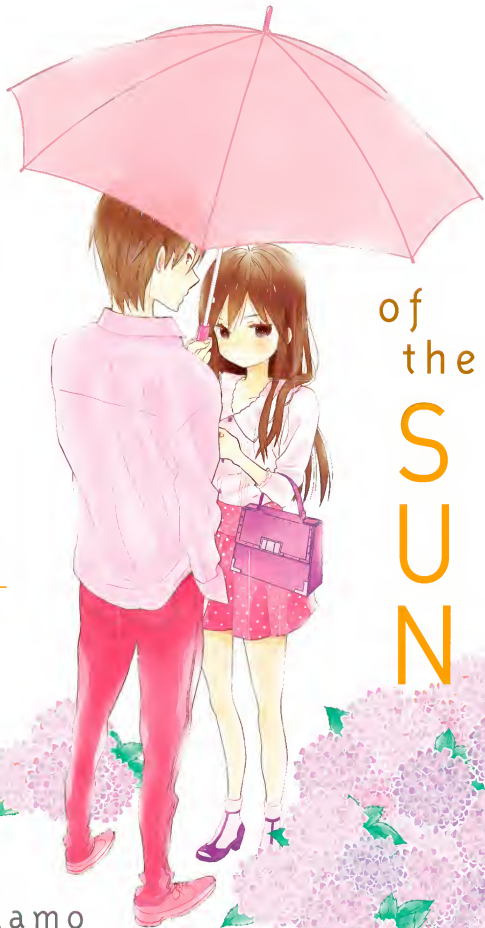


HOUSE

6

of the  
SUN



Taamo

# HOUSE of the SUN



by Taamo





|       |                      |       |
|-------|----------------------|-------|
| ----- | Story 21             | ----- |
|       | That Girl Over There |       |
| ----- | ↑4                   | ----- |

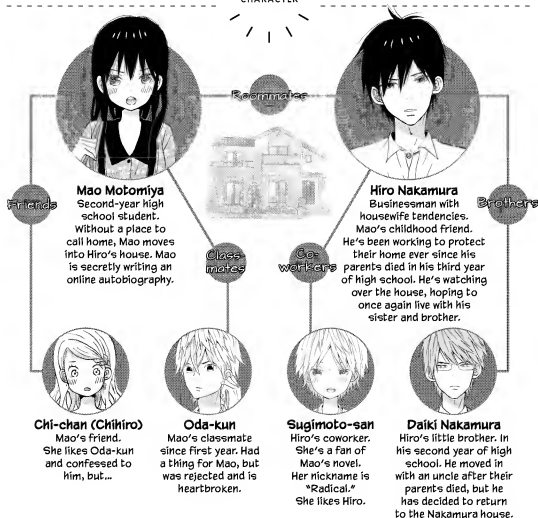
|       |                        |       |
|-------|------------------------|-------|
| ----- | Story 22               | ----- |
|       | To Each Their Own Path |       |
| ----- | ↑45                    | ----- |

|       |                   |       |
|-------|-------------------|-------|
| ----- | Story 23          | ----- |
|       | A Brief Trip Home |       |
| ----- | ↑83               | ----- |

|       |            |       |
|-------|------------|-------|
| ----- | Story 24   | ----- |
|       | A New Life |       |
| ----- | ↑121       | ----- |



## CHARACTER



## STORY

After her father gets remarried, Mao feels like she no longer has a home. Aiming for independence, she is now staying with her childhood friend Hiro. Hiro is kind and takes good care of her, and she begins to fall for him.

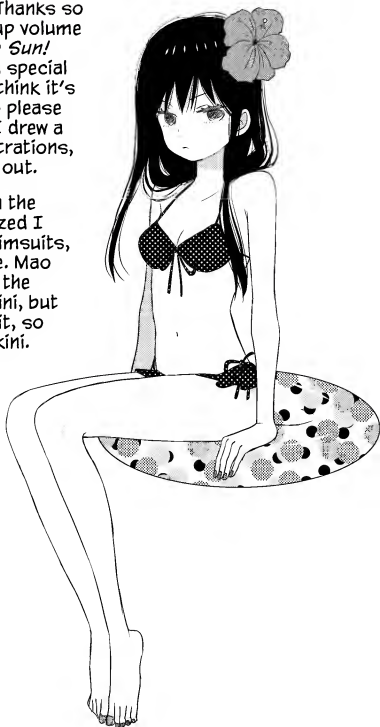
Mao sees Chi-chan struggling with her one-sided romance with Oda-kun and Oda-kun's straightforward affection for her. This gives her the courage to begin to face her own feelings as well as those of other people. Yet even as the distance between her and Hiro begins to close, the day that Daiki is set to move back into the Nakamura house draws ever nearer...!





Hello, it's Taamo. Thanks so much for picking up volume 6 of *House of the Sun*! This time there's a special edition, as well! I think it's really well done, so please take a look at it! I drew a lot of special illustrations, so please check it out.

Summer is over in the comic, but I realized I never drew any swimsuits, so I drew this one. Mao doesn't seem like the type to wear a bikini, but I wanted to draw it, so here she is in a bikini.

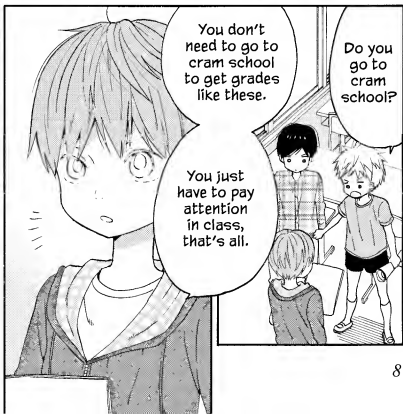


*...there  
she was.*

*Somehow,  
without  
warning...*

*Little,  
shrimpy  
Mao.*







I win!



Hmph.



Hmm.



Who's that?  
I'm Mao.

Magyo!  
What'd  
you  
get?

Whatever,  
lemme  
see.



Nakamura  
wins!

You're  
a sore  
loser.

You're  
a sore  
loser!



Not like  
I was  
competing  
with you.

There's  
just  
nothing  
else to  
do at my  
house.



What? How  
dare you  
ignore us!

無視  
IGNORE



But  
y'know...



Mao is  
always a  
jerk like  
that.

But  
I'm the  
one who  
decides if  
we ignore  
her, so  
shut it.

That  
Motomiya  
makes me  
mad!

Let's  
ignore  
her  
back!



Yeah.

Her hair's  
pretty cute  
today.

I like the  
ribbon.



Yeah.

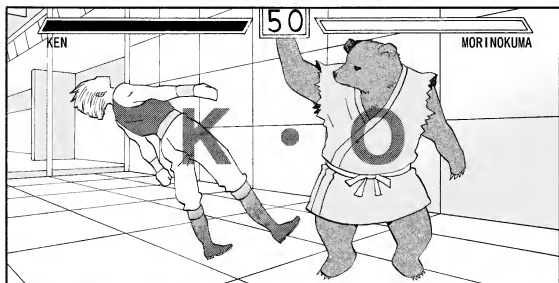
She  
was  
cute.

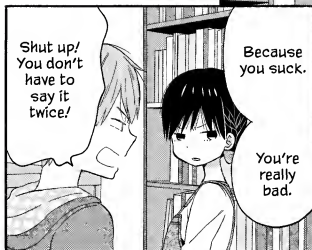
It looks  
good  
on her.



What?











It's weird.



My hair?

Mao...

Nothing.  
I just wanted to try it out.

What's with that hair?



It's totally not cute at all.



You shouldn't do your hair like that at school, either.



It looks really bad on you.



My dad's always telling me stuff like that.

...  
I...  
I know.



I look like my mom, and it's not cute.



Like what?

Dai-chan, I know stuff, you know.

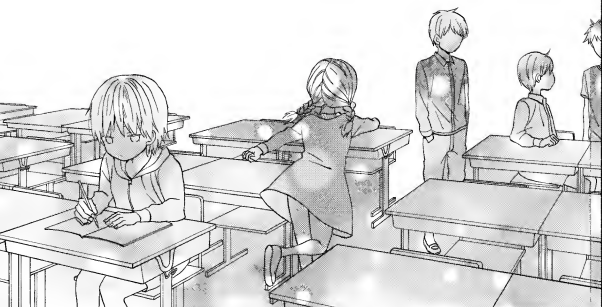




*...a braid in  
her hair at  
school again.*

*...never  
wore...*

*From  
then on,  
Mao...*



*The way you  
feel when  
someone...*

*...returns the  
toy they've  
taken away  
from you.*



*I felt a  
little guilty.*



*I also felt  
a little  
relieved.*

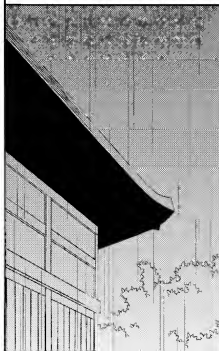
*...my parents died.*

*One rainy day...*

*...always  
brings back  
the memories  
of that day.*

*That very  
particular  
scent...*

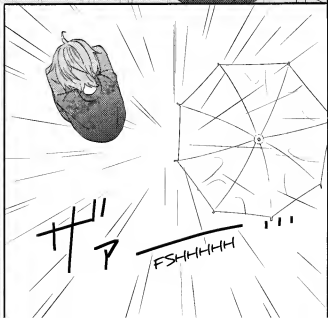
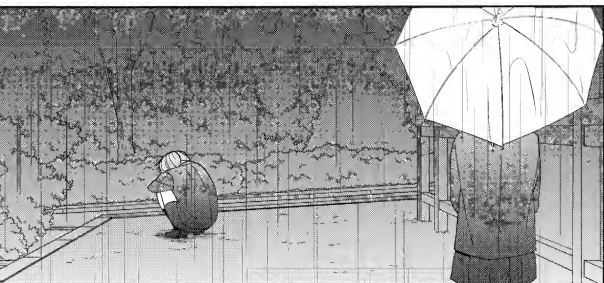
*I've hated  
rain ever since  
that day.*



*My  
sister,  
his polar  
opposite.*



*My  
brother,  
day-  
eyed.*





*...Mao just  
stayed there  
with me.*

*Without  
a word...*

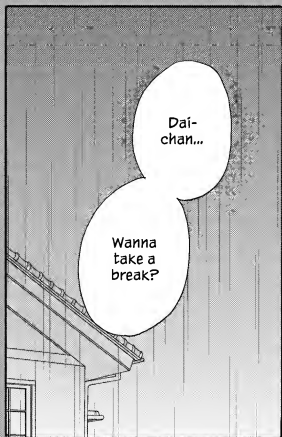


Dai-  
chan...

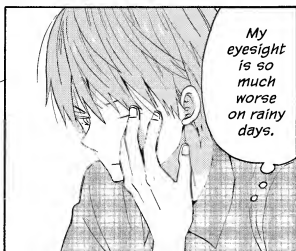
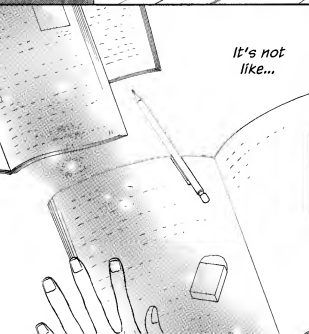
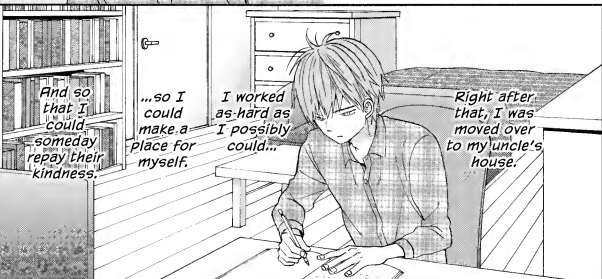
Wanna  
take a  
break?

*No one but me  
knows what that  
umbrella shielded  
me from.*

*It wasn't  
just the rain.*

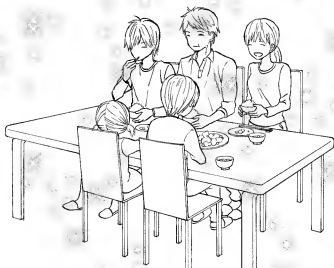






*I hadn't  
yet come to  
terms with  
the reality  
that they  
were gone.*

*I didn't have  
the courage  
to do it.*



*...I don't  
want to  
live with  
Hina and  
Hiro.*



*...without  
our parents?*

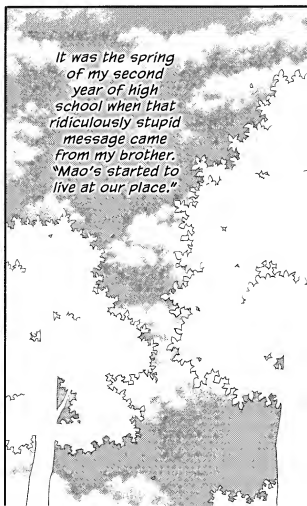
*But  
returning  
to that  
house...*



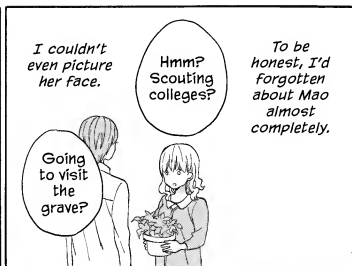
*Why's  
she living  
at our  
place?*

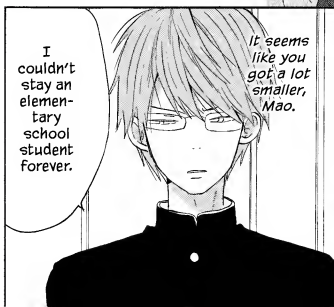
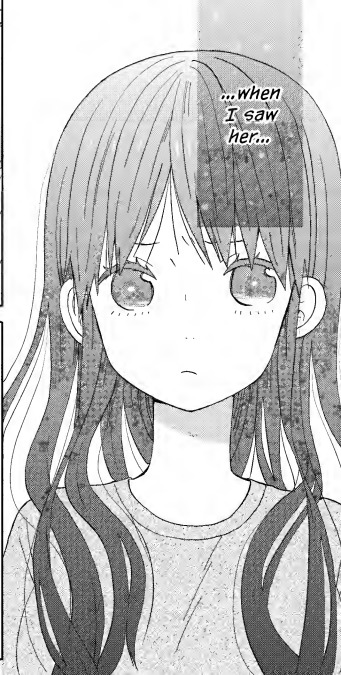
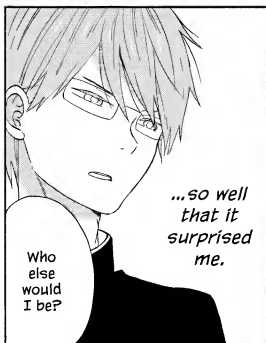
*Mao?  
That  
little  
shrimp?*

*Is she  
dating  
Hiro?*



*It was the spring  
of my second  
year of high  
school when that  
ridiculously stupid  
message came  
from my brother.  
"Mao's started to  
live at our place."*







What  
are you  
thinking,  
Hiro?

And now  
she's living  
with my  
brother?!

TTTTT  
HMPH



I'll  
make  
some.

Oh,  
you  
want  
tea?

Yes.

Is Hiro  
at work?

I  
remem-  
ber  
where  
the tea  
is kept.

Sigh.



Why'd  
she grow  
out her  
hair?

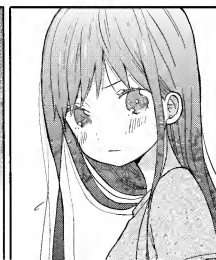
How'd  
she get  
so pale?

She's  
basically  
become a  
woman!



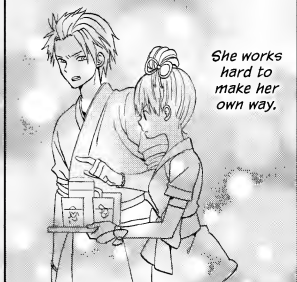
What's  
with all  
this?

RRRRR



Don't  
bother.

It's  
fine.



*She works  
hard to  
make her  
own way.*



*But... If I had  
to explain Mao  
in one phrase,  
I'd say...*

*...she  
works  
hard.*



*Are you  
wearing  
earplugs?!*

*Stop  
trying  
to make  
dinner!*

*All  
the  
time.*

*It's  
gonna  
reek in  
here!*

*Constantly.*





*Every single day.*



We  
worked hard.

Gotta  
celebrate  
a new  
member  
of the  
house-  
hold!



Don't  
fall  
asleep,  
you two!

Eat every  
bite of  
that  
food!



And  
plus,  
what's  
with  
these  
decora-  
tions?

You  
idiots,  
staying  
up all  
night  
for this.



Even  
here,  
at this  
house.

...I  
became  
able to  
laugh  
again.

At  
some  
point...



Congratu-  
lations!

Don't try  
to drag me  
into your  
sleep-  
deprived  
mood.

Don't  
talk  
about it  
like I'm a  
newborn  
baby.



Good  
idea.

Wanna  
draw on  
him?

Is Hiro  
sleeping?



Shrimpy,  
little Mao...

Mao...

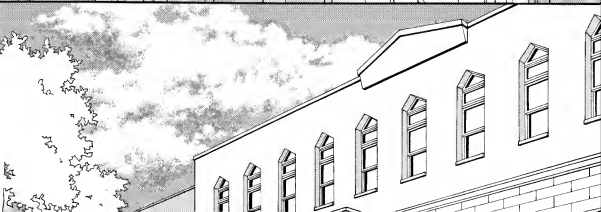
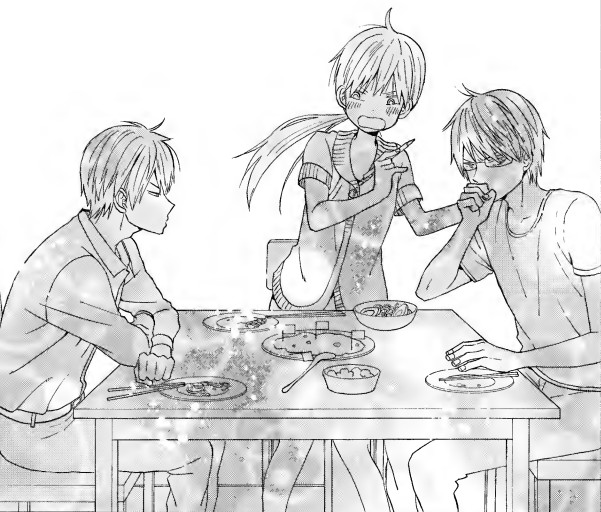


Somehow,  
without  
warning...



*Deep in  
my heart.*

*...there  
she was.*





I ain't goin' there.

Not at all.

We'll go to the same school.

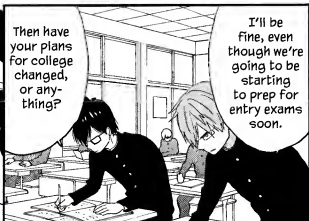
What're you sayin'?

Nakamura...  
A Kansai accent's too weird comin' from you.  
Cut it out.



Gonna be tough, this time of year.

Naka-mura, you transferrin' out, for real?



Then have your plans for college changed, or anything?

I'll be fine, even though we're going to be starting to prep for entry exams soon.



Oh, it's a step down from here.

Where you transferrin' to?



The only reason I ain't been doin' it is 'cause I been stubborn, so I figured I should start up sooner 'r later.



Well, it's not like it's a bad school.

You gonna be okay?

And there are some good prep schools there, too. I'll be fine.

Anyway, that college thing was a joke. We're goin' to the same school.

Why now?! Seriously, y'sound gross!





I bought loads of 'em!

Take these with ya, they're charms!



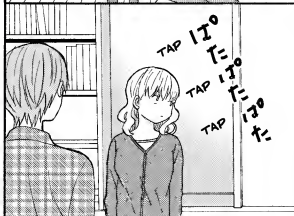
The more charms, the luckier you are, I always say!

Isn't it a little too early for exam charms?

And why so many?



Dai-chan!



TAP 120 TAP 120 TAP 120 TAP 120



If only she were a li'l bit more responsible.



Aw, c'mon!

Otoba.

Ya left your dishes on the table, didn't ya? Go clean 'em up.

\*Right to left: Protection against Traffic Accidents, Safe Childbirth, Protection against Idiocy.



...!!



Now don't  
look so  
surprised!



I was hopin'  
to get you  
two hitched  
and make  
our son  
for real.



And  
payin' us  
back...  
how?

Now  
what's  
all that  
bowin'  
for?



We don't  
need none  
of that.

Money?

Don't be  
stupid.



Auntie...  
I...

I will pay  
you back  
someday.





I will.



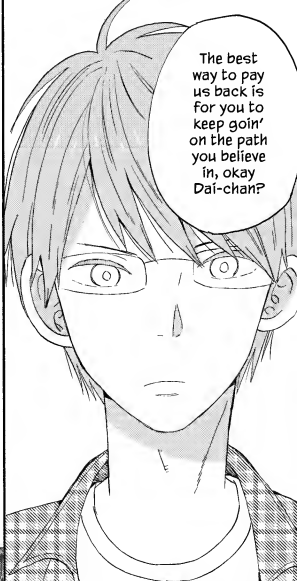
Thank  
you.



I don't  
have the  
words to  
express...



...how  
grateful  
I feel.



The best  
way to pay  
us back is  
for you to  
keep goin'  
on the path  
you believe  
in, okay  
Dai-chan?

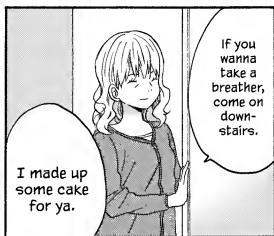


But it'd  
also be nice  
if you'd  
think of us  
a little, time  
to time.





*But...*



Mao.

I want  
to see  
her.

Damn  
it.

9月

Daiki comes  
back on the 25th  
of next month!

| 日  | 月  | 金  | 土  |
|----|----|----|----|
|    |    | 2  | 3  |
| 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 |    |



Sure, but having a staring contest with the calendar won't make time go any faster.

It's because it's one step closer to the final form of the Nakamura family!

Come to think of it, where's Daiki going to be going to school?

You think staring at the calendar is gonna make you feel any better, Mao?

It'll be a while until Daiki's back.

What?! Are you two keeping secrets?

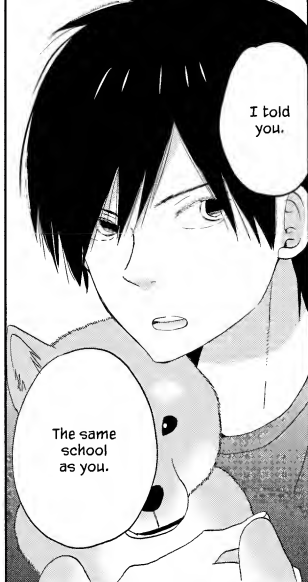
I didn't ask.

Huh?! Didn't anybody tell you, Mao?!

He's going to the same school as you.

I thought I already told you, actually.

It wasn't supposed to be a secret.





You don't have to call a guy out like that.

I can easily imagine Daiki making fun of Oda-kun, actually!



You don't have to go that far.

He's going to snicker at Chi-chan because she has a thing for Oda-kun!



Sure you can.

The same school as Daiki...

I—I can't even imagine it...!

He's a high school student, too.



What do I do, Wakaba?

I see...

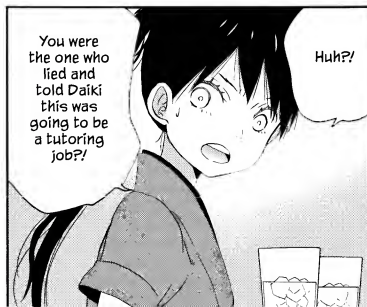
Hmmm. So that Chi-chan girl has a thing for Oda-kun.

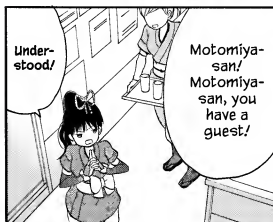
Ooh, the first strategy meeting in a while.



So Mao and Daiki will be at the same school, the same job, the same house...

Let's hide Oda-kun.









What was that about? He didn't text.

Oh, right, Hiro.

CLICK

ひろ



Bye, see you later!

Later!

Worked hard again today...

My first paycheck is coming soon, so I should work even harder!



Excuse me!





...san.

Radical...













**Graaah!**  
It's just  
like she  
said....!



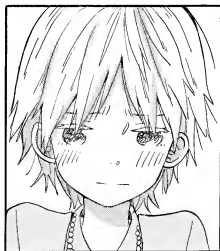
It's about  
your novel,  
Kukai-san.



Um...

I'm gonna  
yell at Hiro  
in my head!  
I hate you,  
stupid  
Hiro!!

And how  
I lied...  
and said  
I wrote it.







y-  
yes.

A-are  
you  
okay...?



**I'm so  
sorry  
I said  
that!**

**BAM**



...if I said  
I wasn't  
being selfish,  
too, it would  
be a lie.

I knew you  
didn't want  
the fact that  
you wrote the  
novel to be  
revealed, but...

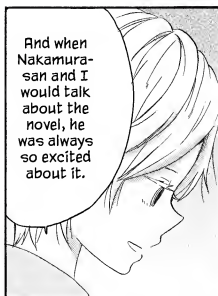


That  
was my  
ulterior  
motive.



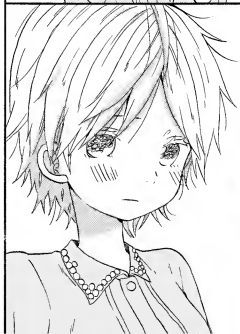
I thought  
that if I  
took the  
identity of  
"Kukai-  
san"...

...maybe  
he'd start  
to pay  
attention  
to me.



...but she cares about Hiro so much that she'd lie.

She's such an honest person...





I'm very  
sorry.

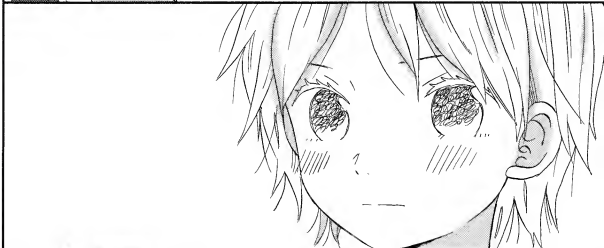
Please  
give me  
some  
time...

...to  
confess  
everything  
to him.

I really  
wanted  
to tell  
Nakamura-  
san the  
truth...

...and  
explain to  
him why I  
told a lie  
like that.

But the  
longer I went  
on without  
saying any-  
thing, the more  
I couldn't say  
anything at all.



I just think  
that I'd  
really like it  
if I could  
be the one...

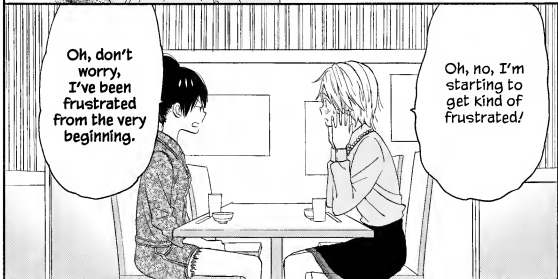
...to  
make him  
happy.



...I'm not  
Hiro's  
girlfriend,  
you know.

And  
nobody  
has the  
right to tell  
anybody  
else how  
to feel.

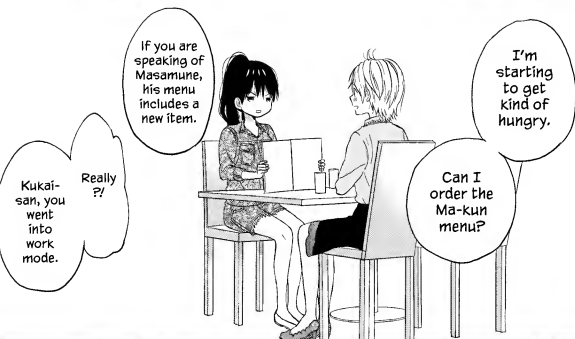






*We share  
our time...*

*We share  
the same  
feelings...*



*But no matter how  
much we share...*

*...share a real  
smile with her.*

*...I just  
can't...*

*...somehow...*

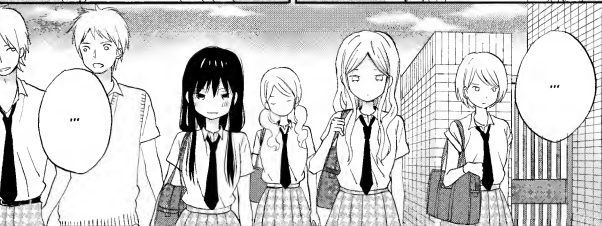
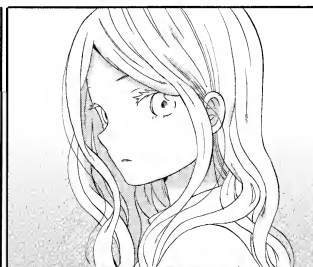
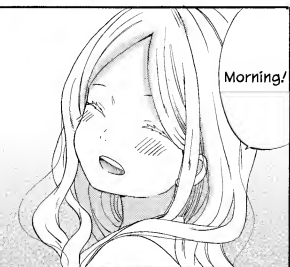
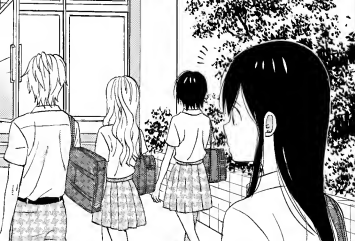


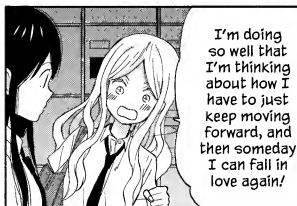
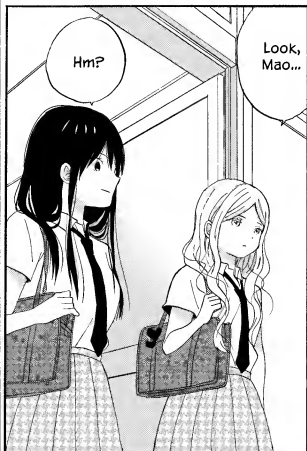
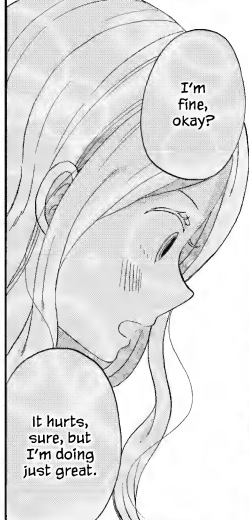
*If only we  
didn't like  
the same  
person.*

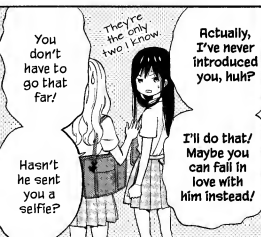
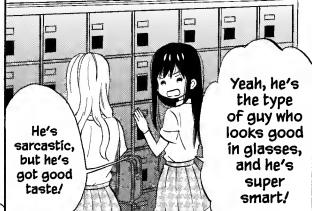
*I really think...*

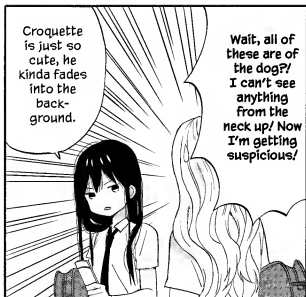


*...that things  
would be so  
much different  
between us.*

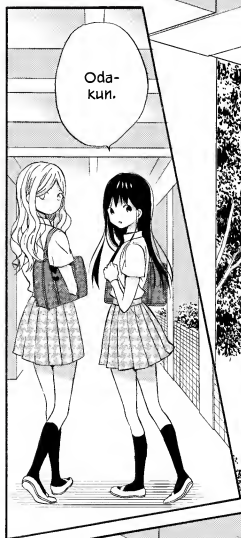




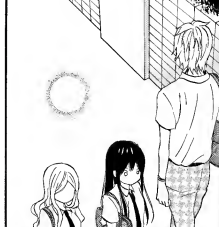










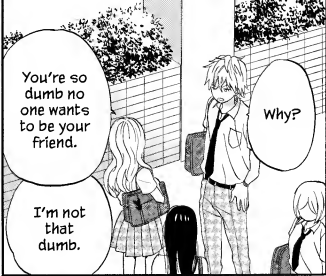


**Maybe you shouldn't try! Go hide!**



Shut up!  
I'm totally  
making him  
my friend!

I wasn't  
talking  
about  
your  
grades.



You're so  
dumb no  
one wants  
to be your  
friend.

Why?

I'm not  
that  
dumb.



I wonder  
if she's  
really given  
up on  
Oda-kun.

Chi-  
chan's  
acting  
normal.

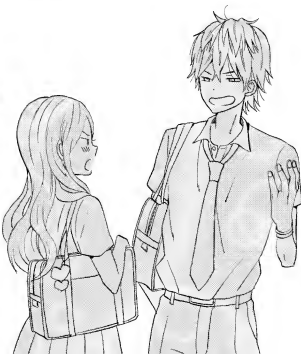


Well,  
see you  
later.

...nothing  
even  
happened.

He's  
acting  
like...

Oda-kun,  
too...



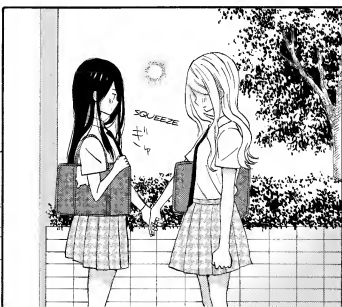


Chi-  
chan...



How'd  
I do?

Was I  
acting as  
casual as  
he was?



*I felt like  
Chi-chan's  
tears...*

*...were  
telling me  
everything...*

*...about how  
she felt.*

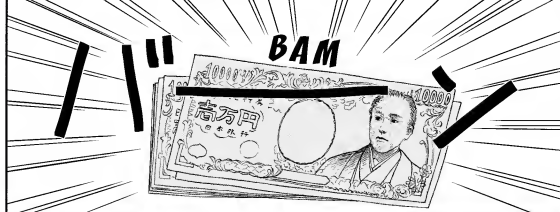


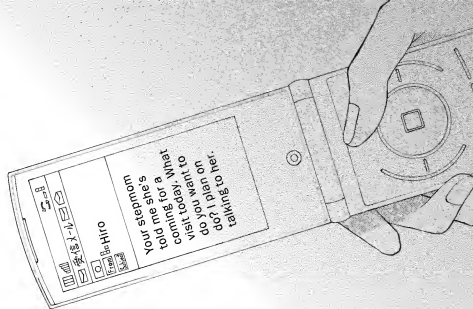
*Why...*

*...did I ever  
think for a  
minute that she  
could give up  
on Oda-kun...*

*...just  
like that?*

*Even for  
a minute.*











Won't  
you come  
home?



I've been  
talking to  
Nakamura-  
san, Mao-  
chan...



Wh...



...wants  
me to  
get  
out?



Hiro...

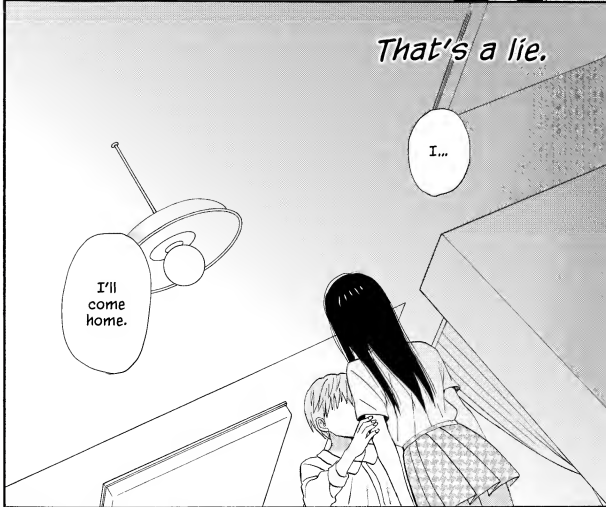




*That's a lie.*

I...

I'll  
come  
home.



*But I'm  
definitely  
going to  
need my  
dad to  
sign off  
on it.*

*If I can't  
go home,  
then I'll  
live on my  
own...!*

But  
just for  
a little  
bit...



...to try  
to come  
home.

...who  
wants  
someone  
like me...

...there's  
someone  
there...

And  
now...



Thank  
you, Mao-  
chan.



Thank  
you so  
much.



*...for  
something  
as simple as  
going home?*

*Why does  
she want to  
thank me  
so much...*

*I wonder  
what she's  
feeling...*



*I'm  
making  
her worry  
about me.*

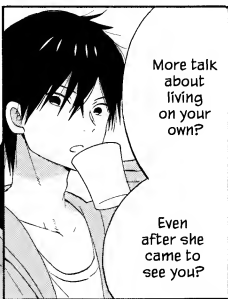


*Hiro,  
too.*



*...in that  
house?*

*What are  
things like...*











You  
don't  
want  
us to  
worry...

You don't  
want to  
bother  
us...



Mao.



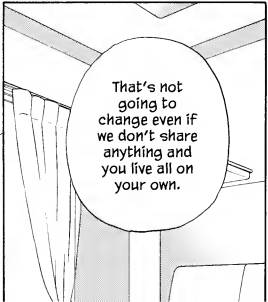
That's  
what being  
together is  
all about,  
you know?

But even  
if you  
feel that  
way...

...we're still  
going to be  
taking care  
of you and  
worrying  
about you.



It's okay  
to let us  
worry  
about  
you.

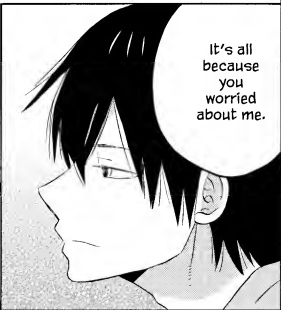


That's not  
going to  
change even if  
we don't share  
anything and  
you live all on  
your own.



If you hadn't pushed me, I'm sure I wouldn't have been able to tell Hina and Daiki how I really felt.

After all...



It's all because you worried about me.



Then, I helped Hiro?

So...



*I'm so happy.*



I'm going to keep working hard, just like you.



Thanks, Hiro. Just knowing that makes me feel better.



*So, why  
do I  
feel so  
upset?*

*It's great  
that Mao's  
making  
progress.*



Right.



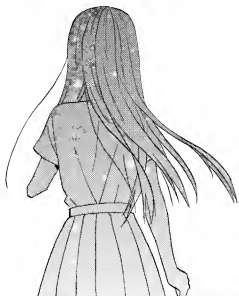
I'm  
gonna  
go  
change!

Tonight's  
my night  
to make  
dinner!

*...that someday  
Mao would leave  
this house.*

*I knew  
from the  
start...*

*I mean...*



*...always  
knew  
that.*

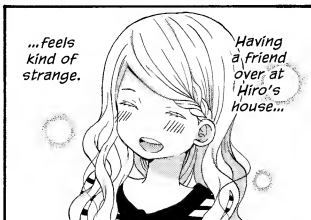
*I...*

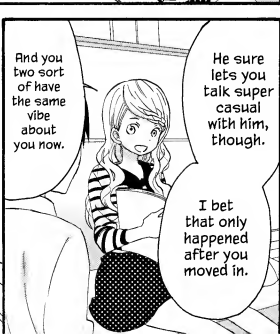


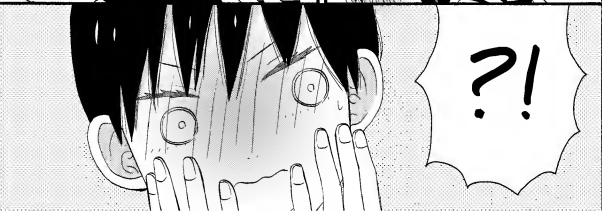
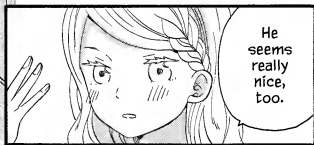














Well, y'know, I'm just interested! You are too, I bet.

That does sound awful.

You've been talking about stuff like that a lot, Chi-chan.



Whatever! I'm just worried about you, is all!

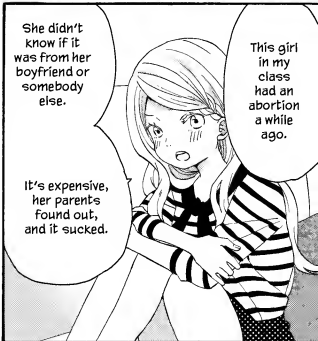
I-i-it's not like that at all!



W  
H  
A  
A  
A  
A  
A  
T  
?!

I just really want to try doing it!

What's it like?!



She didn't know if it was from her boyfriend or somebody else.

It's expensive, her parents found out, and it sucked.

This girl in my class had an abortion a while ago.



What, really?! But you want to touch him, right?

I never thought about it.



U  
G  
H  
H  
H  
...

POKE POKE  
ぽんぽんぽん♡

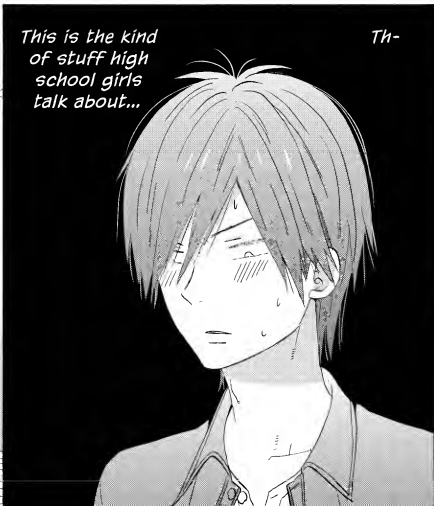
You want to poke him, right...?



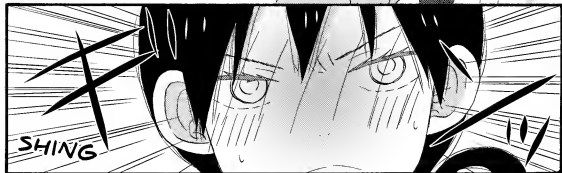
ヒッ  
POINT

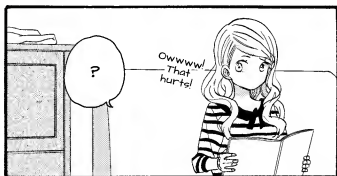
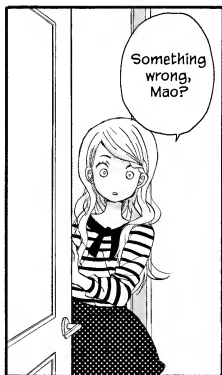
Look, I'm telling you, we're behind!

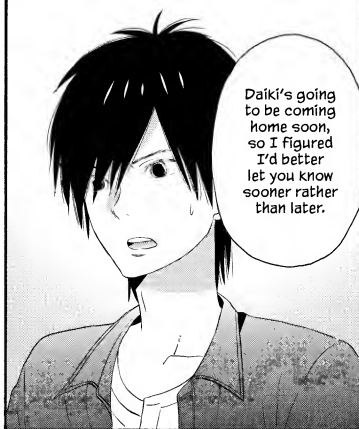
Everybody else is already doing it!









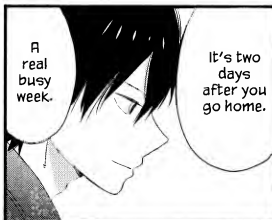


Daiki's going to be coming home soon, so I figured I'd better let you know sooner rather than later.



Schoolgirls have their minds in the gutter!

Wait, wait!  
It's not what it looks like!



A real busy week.

It's two days after you go home.



Right?

Daiki?

Well, that's good.

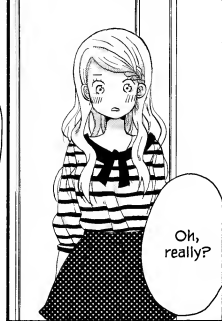


Just overnight, this time.



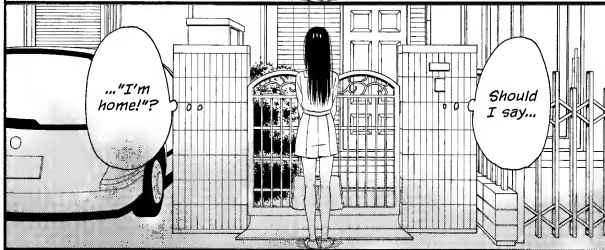
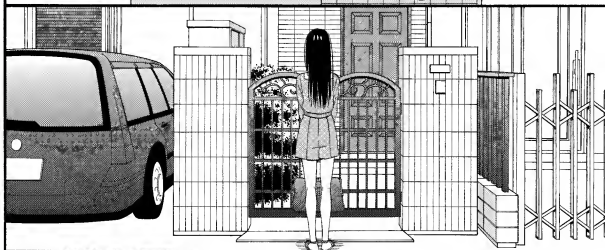
Wh—

Mao, you're going home?

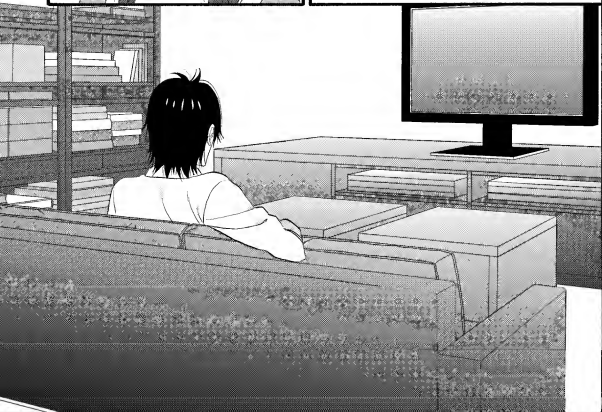
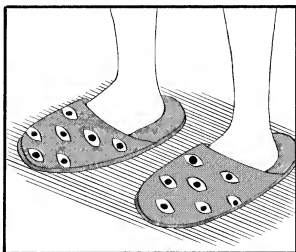


*...I went  
back  
home for  
the first  
time in a  
while.*

*One  
day in  
October  
...*



*It's a weird thing  
to worry about.*





Ha  
ha  
ha  
ha!

I'm  
home!

Dad...

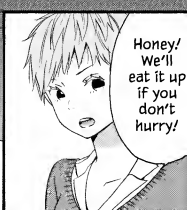
D-

You  
gotta be  
kiddin'  
me!

Ah  
ho  
ha!

This  
guy's  
such an  
idiot.







Honey...

Yeah, I'm gonna eat in front of the TV.

...I can never feel like it's okay to live here.

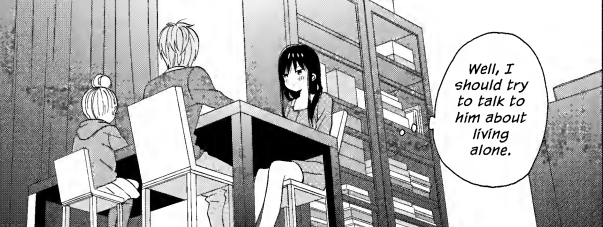
Without him to tell me it's okay...

...who can tell me it's okay.

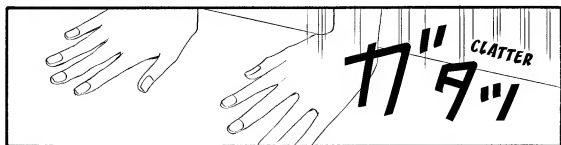
He's the only one...

Why?

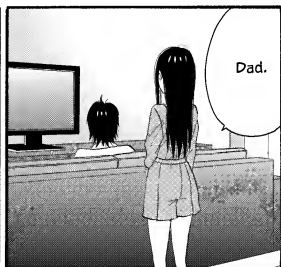




Well, I  
should try  
to talk to  
him about  
living  
alone.



I need  
to talk to  
you.

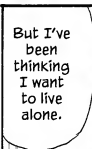


Dad.



Once I find  
a place, will  
you give me  
permission?

But I'm  
still  
underage,  
so I need  
a parent's  
permission.



But I've  
been  
thinking  
I want to  
live  
alone.



Hiro's  
been  
helping  
me a lot  
at his  
place.



*I'm not  
gonna let  
you live  
alone.*

Absolutely  
not....!

*Why...*

*...not?*

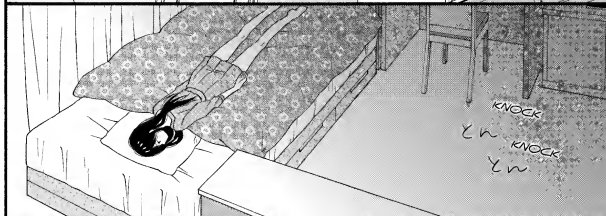
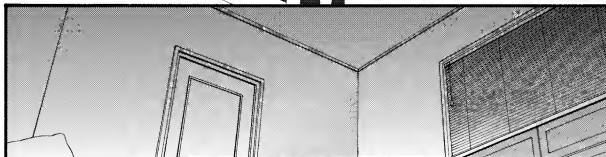
...  
some-  
thing  
like  
that!

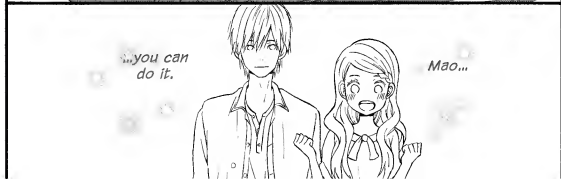
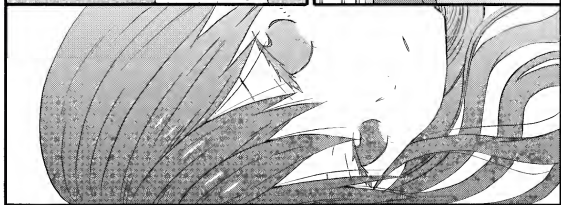
How  
dare you  
come  
here just  
to ask  
me...

*Then...*



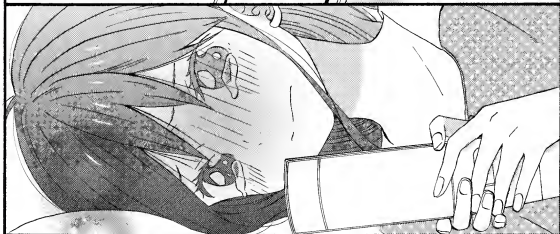
*...where  
am I  
supposed  
to live?*





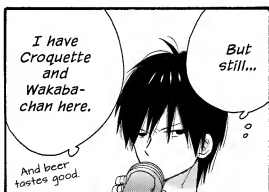
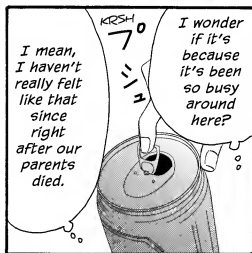
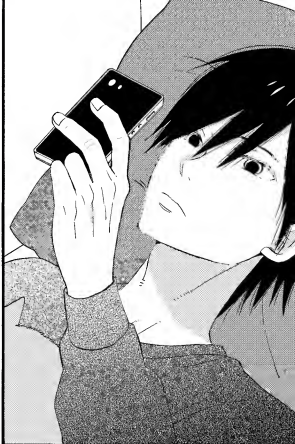
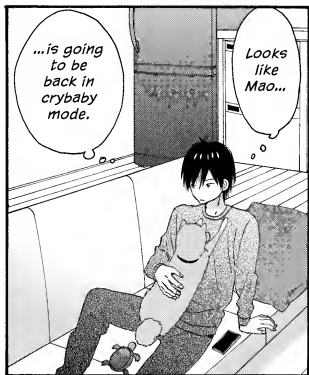






*Even though  
he sucks.*

*I want to  
see him.*

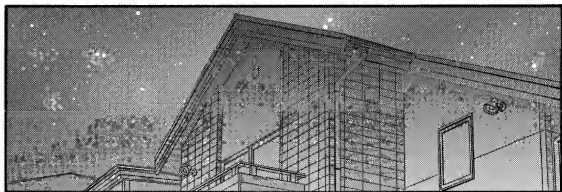




...missing  
me, too?

...over there...

Is Hiro...



What's  
with the  
question  
mark?

Welcome  
home,  
Mao.

I'm  
home?



What  
do you  
mean, no  
reason?

No  
reason.





...

How did it go?



Yup.

You can measure. Just don't mix it up, or it'll end up turning into a mess.

I'll help.

Are these snacks for Daiki's welcome home party?



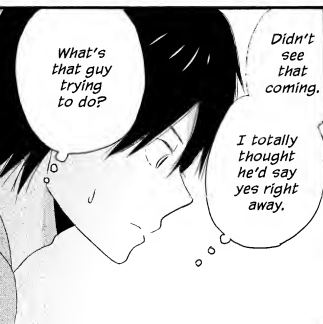
Huh?



...go live on my own.

Well...

My dad told me he wasn't gonna let me...



What's that guy trying to do?

Didn't see that coming.

I totally thought he'd say yes right away.



You're still just a high schooler, right?

Oh, well... I wouldn't rush, then.



I really  
should  
go back  
home.

Yep.  
So I was  
thinking...

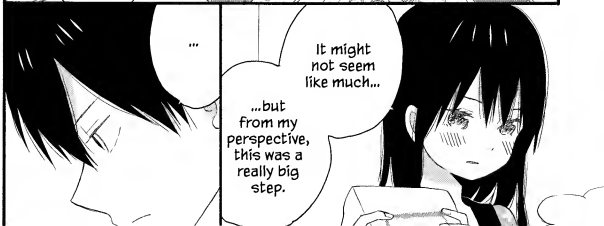


So  
I'll  
try,  
too,  
bit by  
bit.

Just going  
back for a day  
or so like this  
is about all  
I can handle  
right now.

But my  
stepmom  
is really  
trying  
for me.

Yeah.



It might  
not seem  
like much...

...but  
from my  
perspective,  
this was a  
really big  
step.





*Just  
keep  
staying  
here...!*



*It's  
probably  
going  
to take  
my dad  
some  
time...*

*Until  
then, I'll  
probably  
end up  
having  
to stay  
here for a  
while...*

Sorry.



*Mph.*

Hiro?

*It's  
all  
over  
you.*

*You  
poured  
too  
much.*

*I'm the  
worst.  
What a  
contra-  
diction.*

*I want to  
cheer her  
on, but  
I also  
want to  
sabotage  
her.*



*But I  
can't  
say  
that.*





Even though  
I was always  
alone before  
you came.

Yeah,  
I was.

Weird,  
huh?



*I'm  
a liar.*



Yeah.

Tomorrow  
...

...Daiki's  
coming  
back.

So  
you'll  
be fine.

*I wasn't  
really lonely  
at all.*

*I wasn't  
lonely...*

*It's just  
that...*

*...Mao  
was gone.*

*That's all.*



*What  
do I  
do?*

*He's so  
close, but  
I want him  
closer.*



**That's  
why!**

**Y-you  
looked  
really  
sad, is  
all!**



Wh—

Let  
me  
go,  
jerk!

Is that  
what you  
do when  
people  
look  
sad?



Huh.



Look  
at me.



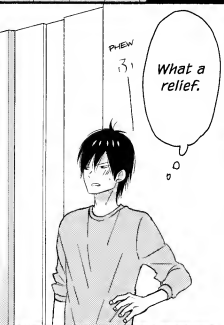
How  
does it  
feel...

Now  
tell me.









うーん  
OHM



うーん  
OHM



*Just let  
me get  
through  
tonight  
...!*

*This is the  
last night  
we're alone  
together...!*



*Wicked  
thoughts,  
please  
leave me.*



What  
are you  
doing  
here?



Mao?





Daiki?

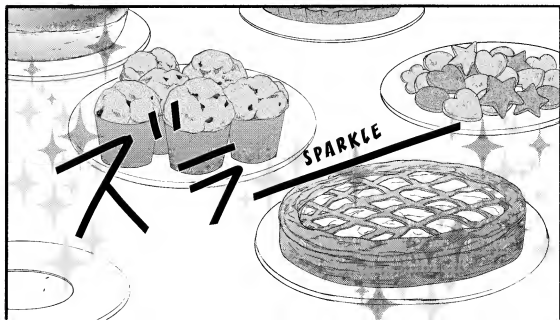


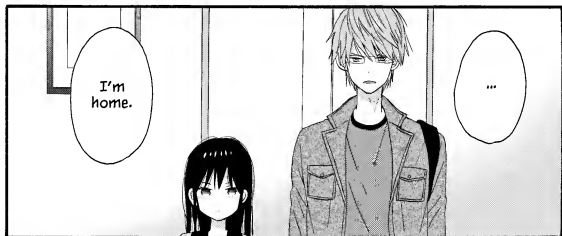
I managed  
to make the  
last train.  
I thought  
I let Hiro  
know...



I thought  
you were  
coming  
home  
tomorrow?



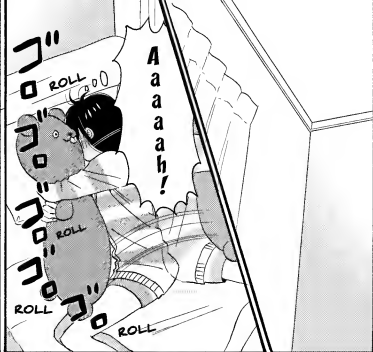












*Maybe it's  
not good  
to do these  
things while  
they're letting  
me stay here.*

*...something  
like that!*

*How dare  
you come  
here just to  
ask me...*

*When will  
it be okay  
for me to  
go back  
there, I  
wonder.*

...

*That's  
why Daiki  
came  
back to  
him.*



*Hiro  
worked so  
hard...*

*...to  
get him  
to talk  
to me?*

*What  
can I  
say...*



*I have  
to be  
able to  
go home  
to that  
house.*

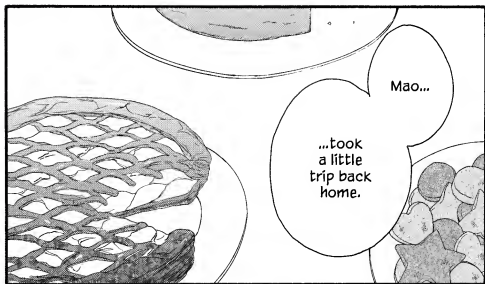


*Until then,  
I have to  
hold in my  
outbursts.*

*...I can  
tell Hiro  
how I feel  
again.*

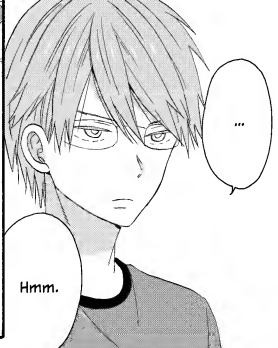
*And  
then...*







She says she's going back, but it sure looks like it's little by little so far.



...

Hmm.



Is she really going home?

Seriously?



But that's a good thing for Mao, right?

Huh.

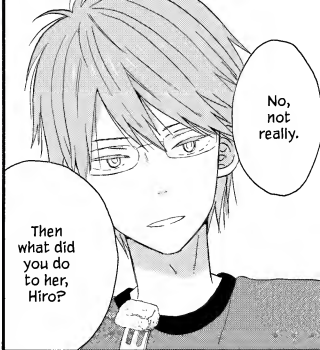
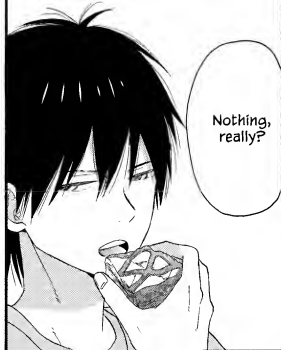


Uhh.

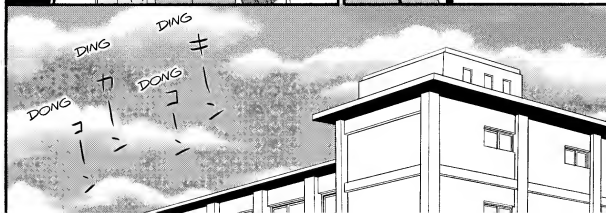


Is that why Mao was acting weird?

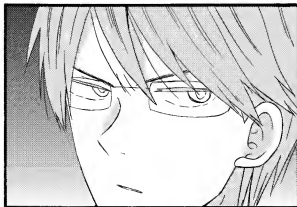


















Hand-  
some?  
I guess  
so.

I  
forgot.



Huh?



**Why do  
you think  
that?!**

*I don't  
have  
many  
friends*

Daiki.

Did you  
really want  
to make  
friends  
with girls  
that badly?



Hello.

Daiki.

Oooh!

So this  
is Hiro's  
infamous  
younger  
brother!

Nice to  
meet you!  
You can call  
me Chihiro.



Mao!

I'm  
here to  
hang  
out!

Chi-  
chan!

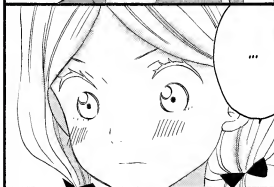






You're a joke, so I'm calling you one!

What do you mean, clown?!



...



Wow... I guess Motomiya's life is sort of like a *shoujo* manga now...

I feel like my sister's got this one.

And I'm never sure when this clown will pop up.



...

...

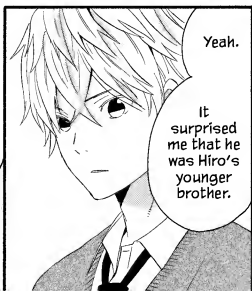
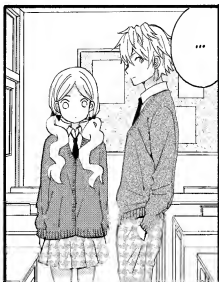


Hm?

Mao, give me a tour around the school.

TMP  
カ  
ア









*I still  
love him.*



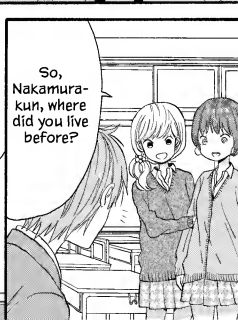
*It's  
just no  
good.*



*I just  
want  
to see  
Oda-kun  
again.*



*So I'll  
be back  
in this  
classroom  
again  
soon.*





We just  
grew up  
together.

Aaah!  
Good!

Friends?  
No, not  
really.

Are you  
friends with  
Motomiya-  
san?

So, then,  
do you know  
if Motomiya-  
san is dating  
Oda-kun?

What is  
this, a  
pick-up  
spot?

Jeez, this  
is more  
than just  
annoying.

Oh,  
good!

ooh!  
♡

They're  
not  
dating.

Shut up!  
Why do I  
have to tell  
them whether  
or not you  
and Oda-kun  
are dating?

You  
won't be  
popular!  
Except  
at first!







I...  
I wish  
someone  
could  
teach  
me.

Um...  
I'm pretty  
good at  
cooking,  
but I never  
really tried  
to bake  
before.

Thanks.

Um...  
They were  
really  
good...!

*I really don't  
need any  
more people  
knowing  
about Mao  
being at my  
house...!*



No  
way!

Ooh, I want  
to go to  
Nakamura's  
place, too!

Hawaii!

Guam!

Can't be  
overseas.

Ha  
ha  
ha

No cost  
to make  
a sug-  
gestion.

Looks like  
we're taking  
requests  
on where to  
go for our  
corporate  
retreat this  
year.

Hey.



Don't  
say  
London  
or Paris.

M-me?



Hm?

Is there  
anywhere  
you'd like,  
Sugimoto?



I want  
to go to  
Sendai...!

Sendai...



YEAH!  
はーい  
if that's what  
Sugimoto-san  
wants!

Any  
objections,  
guys?



I see,  
hmm!



Sendai ...

That's  
where  
Hina is.

If we are  
going to  
Sendai,  
I can see  
her.



I'm  
home!



Don't  
look so  
emotional.  
It's  
creepy.

Yeah,  
creepy.

What?!  
How is it  
creepy?!

Don't  
just  
repeat  
it, Mao!

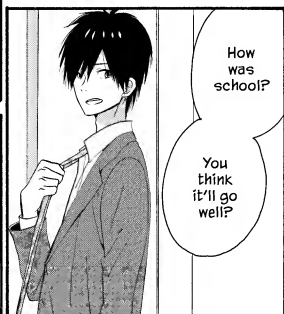


SHINE



Welcome  
home.









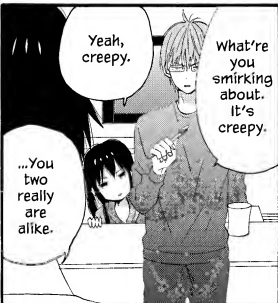
Above all,  
this house  
is getting  
brighter.

A black and white line drawing of three people in a room. On the left, a man with short hair is seen from the back, wearing a light-colored jacket and pants. In the center, another man with short hair and glasses is standing, wearing a light-colored long-sleeved shirt and pants, with his hand near his face. On the right, a young girl with short hair is sitting on a low sofa or counter, looking towards the other two people. The background is simple, with some faint shapes suggesting a room.



Now for  
Hina.

A large, close-up black and white line drawing of a man's face. He has dark, straight hair and is looking slightly to the right with a serious expression. The background is dark and textured with some light spots.

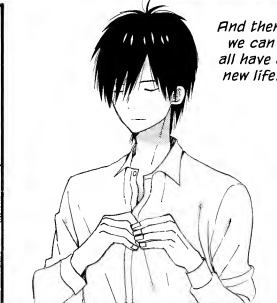


Yeah,  
creepy.

A black and white line drawing of two people in a room. On the left, a young girl with short hair is sitting on a low sofa or counter, looking towards the other person. On the right, a man with short hair and glasses is standing, wearing a dark sweater and pants, with his hand near his face. The background is simple, with some faint shapes suggesting a room.

What're  
you  
smirking  
about.  
It's  
creepy.

...You  
two  
really  
are  
alike.



And then,  
we can  
all have a  
new life.

A black and white line drawing of a man with short hair, wearing a light-colored button-down shirt. He is looking down with his hands clasped in front of him. The background is simple, with some faint shapes suggesting a room.



What  
are you  
doing in  
my room,  
Mao?



If nothing  
happened,  
why are you  
making that  
face?



**N-nothing  
happened!**

A little  
late for  
the serious  
expression.



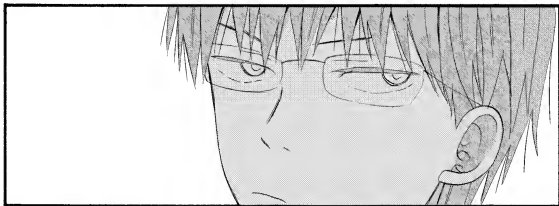
...

That's  
just an  
excuse.

Did  
something  
happen  
with Hiro?  
Spit it out  
already.

I was  
thinking  
we could  
study  
together.









Do you  
have a  
crush on  
anyone?



Sure do.



I'm  
making  
my  
approach  
slowly.

Anyway,  
I'm  
not in a  
hurry.



I don't  
wanna  
tell you.

Mean.

Don't  
tell  
anyone.

I  
won't

Someone  
in kobe?

Oh!

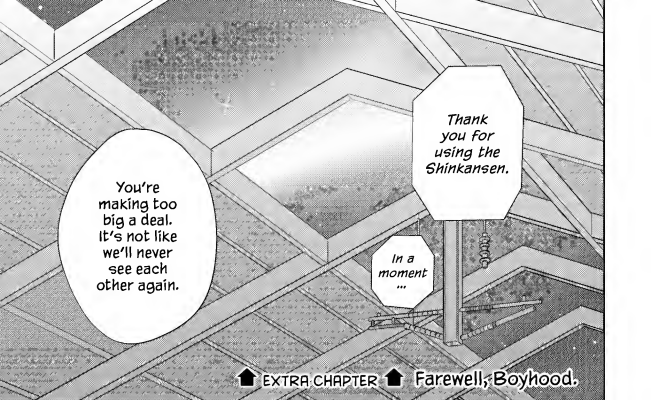
Oooh!!





**To be continued...**





You're making too big a deal. It's not like we'll never see each other again.

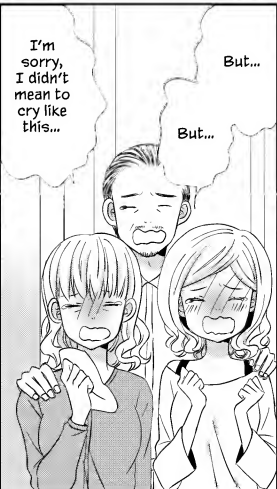
Thank you for using the Shinkansen.

In a moment ...

◆ EXTRA CHAPTER ◆ Farewell, Boyhood.



*I thought this would happen, that's why I wanted to leave quietly at night.*



I'm sorry, I didn't mean to cry like this...

But...

But...



Thanks...

Auntie.

I made you this *bento* for the train. It's full of all your favorites.





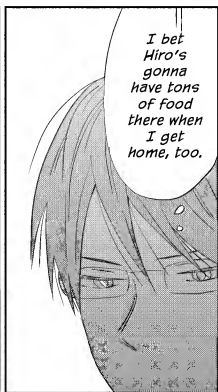
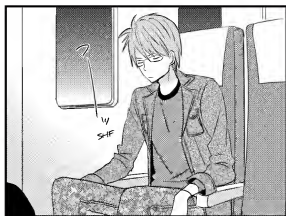
And all those days you spent tryin' to hide your tears...



Feels like it was just yesterday.

Feels like you bein' so tall is a dream.





*How  
extravagant.*

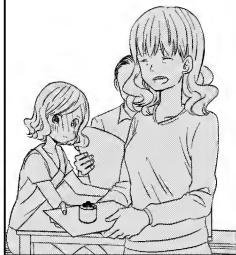
*Now I have two  
different homes.*

*...it's  
because  
of that  
home...*

*But...*

*I really  
can't find  
the words to  
express my  
gratitude for  
the home  
in Kobe.*

*...that I have  
to go back to  
my real home.*





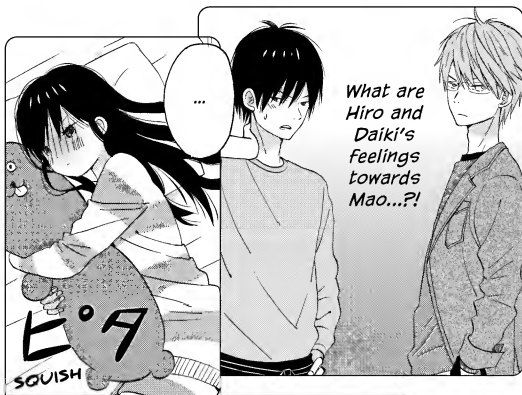
**End of extra chapter**



*Daiki has come home...*



*...and the duo has become a trio.*



*What will Mao do?!*



*At the same time, the work retreat approaches...*

*Will  
Radical-  
san finally  
make her  
move?!*

*I want  
to go to  
Sendai...!*

*Sendai...*



*That's  
where  
Hina is.*

*If we  
are going  
to Sendai,  
I can  
see her.*

*The Nakamura and  
Motomiya houses  
move slowly towards  
a new beginning.*

*What will happen...*



*...between Mao and Hiro?!*

HOUSE<sup>of</sup> the SUN 7

*Popular right now!*



*Volume  
7 is not  
to be  
missed!!*

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